

Transcript: How to Use Wikipedia in Your Research

You can effectively use Wikipedia as a starting point in your research. You will find background information on your topic, useful search terms and phrases, as well as references and links to relevant web content.

Let's look at the features in the Wikipedia entry for the October Crisis. You can glean additional search terms and phrases that you can use in the library catalogue or UNB Libraries' article databases. You can also find references that show you what sources inform the claims made in the entry. Many Wikipedia entries include reference lists and further reading suggestions.

One potential problem with a Wikipedia entry is that it may lack authority—that is, the information may not be reliable, credible, objective, or trustworthy. More specifically, the quality of the information may be compromised by lack of peer review, bias, or the author's lack of expertise and credentials.

There are several ways you can ensure that the information you are using from Wikipedia is authoritative. You can check the "View History" tab that displays the history of the page's revisions, including the date and time of each edit, the username or IP address of the person who made edits, and a summary of changes. Also, the "Talk" page allows editors to comment on improvements needed for the entry.

For more help with your research, contact us via the Ask Us chat or visit the [Research Help page](#).